

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W

-----059220 271655Z /70

P 271255Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 311

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: BUTHELEZI TO HOLD RALLY IN SOWETO

1. CHIEF MINISTER GATSHA BUTHELEZI WILL HOLD A MASS RALLY IN JABULANI STADIUM, SOWETO, ON JANUARY 29. AT PRESENT ALL MASS MEETINGS ARE PROHIBITED BY MINISTERIAL ORDER UNDER THE RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES ACT WITHOUT SPECIAL PERMISSION. ACCORDING TO BUTHELEZI'S AIDE, GIBSON THULA, HE APPLIED FOR PERMISSION FROM THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE OF JOHANNESBURG LAST WEEK AND THE MEETING WAS APPROVED. THULA STATED THAT HE AND BUTHELEZI WERE SURPRISED WHEN THE PERMISSION WAS GRANTED WITHOUT ANY QUALIFICATONS. THULA SAYS, HOWEVER, THAT THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE CALLED YESTERDAY, JANUARY 26, AND ASKED THAT THE PERMIT BE RETURNED. THULA HAD IT RETURNED TO THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE WHERE IT WAS CONFISCATED AND A NEW PERMIT ISSUED. THE NEW PERMIT HAS THE STIPULATION THAT BUTHELEZI MAY ADDRESS THE MEETING BUT ONLY SPEAK IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN KWAZULU.

2. THULA SAID THAT BUTHELEZI IS GOING AHEAD WITH THE MEETING

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AND WILL NOT CONFINE HIS REMARKS TO THE ELECTION.

BUTHELEZI'S ATTITUDE, ACCORDING TO THULA, IS NOW THAT HE HAS THE PERMISSION, HE WILL USE THE OPPORTUINITY TO GET HIS MESSAGE ON BLACK UNITY ACCROSS TO THE SOWETO AUDIENCE DESPITE POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS AFTER THE FACT.

3. THULA FEELS THAT THERE MAY BE SOME DISTURBANCES

AT THE MEETING FROM ANTI-BUTHELEZI BLACKS BUT SAYS
THAT BUTHELEZI IS ALSO WILLING TO TAKE THAT CHANCE
IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THIS IMPORTANT URBAN FORUM.

4. COMMENT: IT HAS BEEN ALMOST TWO YEARS SINCE
BUTHELEZI APPEARED PUBLICLY IN SOWETO AND EVEN THEN, IN
MARCH 1976 THERE WAS SOME ILL FEELING AMONGST BLACKS
AT HIS APPEARANCE. THIS TIME BUTHELEZI IS
KNOWINGLY PUTTING HIMSELF INTO A TOUGH SITUATION.
THE LIKELIHOOD OF DISTURBANCES FROM MILITANT STUDENTS
IS HIGH AND, IF HE COMES THROUGH THE MEETING UNSCATHED,
HE FACES A POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT SANCTION.
BOWDLER

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